



9 May 2018

GS/PL180509jm

Dear Parent / Carer

It gives me great pleasure to update you on our current staffing. We have carried out a number of interviews which has allowed us to fill our vacant posts. We are working hard to ensure that we start the new term in August with a full complement of staff.

The following candidates were successful:

Mark Elder - Technician

Alan Thomson - Teacher of Technical

Alison Roddham -Teacher of History

Corinne Robison and Philip Ross - both teachers of English

We also have interviews planned for a teacher of Biology next week.

As you know, staffing in English has been particularly challenging this session. Dr Greg Campbell leaves us to take up a post at Culloden Academy. We wish him well for the future and thank him for his hard work and support throughout the last year.

Though we will start August with full staffing in English, I must acknowledge that late May and June will remain difficult. We will continue to minimise the impact on our young people. In August we will have additional staffing in the English department and will use this resource to support pupils in class.

School Improvement:

The School Improvement Plan is at the early stage of consultation. There are key themes I should share with you following on from discussions with staff, pupils and the parent online survey. These are:

- The school to focus on what its core business is - delivering effective learning and teaching which leads to improved attainment for all our learners.
- Focus on S1-3 and ensure that we are offering a curriculum that is challenging and supports youngsters as they make the transition to examinations and life beyond school.
- Extending curriculum opportunities particularly in S4.
- A clear focus on the basics - promoting positive behaviour.
- Improved engagement with all parents.

Through next session we will be consulting with parents, pupils and staff regarding our key themes. In particular, school dress. We will be looking at introducing shirt and tie from August 2019. I would encourage you to consider this in terms of school dress from August 2018. The main reasons are to further improve school security and to promote equity in the school.

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This week we have been discussing the use of mobile devices with youngsters. We do recognise the value of these devices. However, we will be strongly discouraging the unauthorised use of these devices in class and in between classes. We want to make sure that learning stays central in the mind of all our pupils.

The school is one of two Secondary Schools in Highland that has significant money to be spent upgrading the school.

Charleston Academy will have £7.5 million spent on the building. In addition we will also get new pupil toilets put in through this summer. This is as a direct result of concerns about the toilets raised through the Pupil Council.

Other items:

PE Kit

The PE department has asked me to remind parents that pupils must ensure they bring a full change of kit for every PE lesson. This means a change of top, t-shirt and bottoms (shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings). Pupils who do not come prepared with a change of kit will not be able to take part in lessons.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Over the weekend a number of our S3 pupils took part in the Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Mr Foster (Biology) said the conditions were hard going in places but that the pupils coped well.

DYW

This Thursday the school is hosting a P7 Transition event with a focus on Developing the Young Workforce. Mrs MacRae (Biology) has organised for a number of local businesses (including some parents) to come into school for the day to support this event. This event has also been supported by our ASG primary schools, Skills Development Scotland and the Inverness DYW team.

SQA Exams

We are now in the thick of SQA examinations. This is a busy time for S4-6 pupils who are preparing for their exams. Staff are available in school if any exam candidate needs extra guidance or reassurance.

We wish the exam candidates all the best in their exams.

Yours sincerely



Gordon Stewart
Acting Head Teacher

